

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at **Page 1, Line 11** with the following amended paragraph:

This application is related to Patent Application No. 09/232,397, filed January 15, 1999, and entitled "A METHOD FOR ROUTING INFORMATION OVER A NETWORK," having A. N. Saleh, H. M. Zadikian, Z. Baghdasarian, and V. Parsi as inventors; Patent Application No. 09/232,396 ~~09/232,936~~, filed January 15, 1999 and entitled "METHOD OF ALLOCATING BANDWIDTH IN AN OPTICAL NETWORK," having H. M. Zadikian, A. Saleh, J. C. Adler, Z. Baghdasarian, and V. Parsi as inventors; Patent Application No. 60/174,323 [~~Attorney Docket P 7241 US~~], filed herewith, and entitled "A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL FOR A CONFIGURABLE NETWORK ROUTER" having H. M. Zadikian, A. Saleh, J. C. Adler, Z. Baghdasarian and Vahid Parsi as inventors; Patent Application No. 09/477,217 [~~Attorney Docket M 7269 US~~], filed herewith, and entitled "FAULT ISOLATION IN A SWITCHING MATRIX," having R. A. Russell and M. K. Anthony as inventors; Patent Application No. 09/389,302, filed September 2, 1999, and entitled "NETWORK ADDRESSING SCHEME FOR REDUCING PROTOCOL OVERHEAD IN AN OPTICAL NETWORK," having A. Saleh and S. E. Plote as inventors; Patent Application No. 09/478,235 [~~Attorney Docket M 7271 US~~], filed herewith, and entitled "A METHOD FOR PATH SELECTION IN A NETWORK," having A. Saleh as inventor; Patent Application No. 09/477,498 [~~Attorney Docket M 7272 US~~], filed herewith, and entitled "METHOD OF PROVIDING NETWORK SERVICES," having H. M. Zadikian, S. E. Plote, J. C. Adler, D. P. Autry, and A. Saleh as inventors. These related applications are hereby incorporated by reference, in their entirety and for all purposes.